Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SP-02 AID-05 EB-07 NSC-05

CIEP-02 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 L-03 H-02

CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-15 XMB-04

OPIC-06 LAB-04 SIL-01 PA-02 PRS-01 SAM-01 /112 W ----- 079285

PR 180750Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 962

INFO AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

UNCLAS TOKYO 8105

DEPT PASS TREASURY, CEA AND FEDERAL RESERVE

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: EFIN, JA

SUBJECT: JAPAN'S BALANCE OF PAYMENTS IN MAY - PROVISIONAL

SUMMARY: IN PROVISIONAL MAY B/P STATISTICS CURRENT BALANCE, BASIC BALANCE, AND OVERALL BALANCE RECORDED DEFICITS MAINLY DUE TO SHARP DECLINE IN JAPAN'S EXPORTS. LONG-TERM CAPITAL BALANCE RETURNED TO MODERATE NET INFLOW. END SUMMARY.

1. IN MAY JAPAN'S EXPORTS DECLINED SHARPLY AND RECORDED THE FIRST YEAR-TO-YEAR DROP, OF 5 PERCENT, IN SEVEN AND HALF UNCLASSIFIED

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YEARS. JAPAN'S IMPORTS IN MAY STAYED STAGNANT AND RECORDED

YEAR-TO-YEAR DECLINES FOR FOURTH CONSECUTIVE MONTH. AS RESULT, JAPAN'S TRADE BALANCE IN MAY WAS ZERO, IN CONTRAST TO A \$645 MIL SURPLUS IN PRIOR MONTH. ON SEASONALLY ADJUSTED BASIS, TRADE SURPLUS DECREASED \$316 MIL TO \$505 MIL LEVEL. EXPORTS (F.O.B., SEASONALLY ADJUSTED) DECREASED \$364 MIL (7.6 PERCENT). IMPORTS (F.O.B., SEASONALLY ADJUSTED) DROPPED \$48 MIL (1.2 PERCENT).

2. DEFICIT ON SERVICES AND TRANSFER PAYMENTS IN MAY WAS LARGER THAN APRIL BY \$108 MIL. MOF OFFICIAL EXPLAINED THIS WAS MAINLY DUE TO LARGER NET PAYMENT FOR TRANSPORTATION AND INCREASED OUTFLOW ON TRANSFER ACCOUNT BECAUSE OF JAPAN'S PAYMENT OF CONTRIBUTION OF \$30 MIL TO U.N. AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN MAY.

3.THE LONG-TERM CAPITAL ACCOUNT REGISTERED \$170 MIL
NET INFLOW IN MAY FOLLOWING \$83 MIL NET OUTFLOW IN PRIOR
MONTH. MOF SOURCES SAID PURCHASES OF JAPANESE BONDS BY
NON-RESIDENTS AND BOND ISSUES ABROAD BY JAPANESE ENTERPRISES HAVE REMAINED BRISK; NET INFLOWS FOR THESE ITEMS
WERE REPORTED TO BE \$240 MIL AND \$100 MIL RESPECTIVELY, LARGER
IN THE AGGREGATE THAN IN APRIL. ON THE OTHER HAND, LOANS
AND DIRECT INVESTMENTS ABROAD BY JAPANESE PRIVATE ENTERPRISES, INCLUDING BANKS, DECLINED IN MAY. JAPAN'S
EXPORTS OF SHIPS IN MAY DROPPED SUBSTANTIALLY FROM APRIL.
CONSEQUENTLY, MAY TRADE CREDITS FOR DEFERRED PAYMENTS
ON SHIP EXPORTS WERE SMALLER THAN IN PRIOR MONTH AND
SMALLER THAN COLLECTION IN MAY OF TRADE CREDITS PREVIOUSLY EXTENDED.

4. DEFICIT IN OVERALL BALANCE OF \$390 MIL WAS FINANCED, IN PART, BY INCREASE IN COMMERCIAL BANKS' SHORT-TERM NET POSITION OF \$110 MIL. AS RESULT, OFFICIAL SETTLE-MENTS BALANCE RECORDED DEFICIT OF \$280 MIL. OFFICIAL LIABILITIES ROSE SOME \$500 MIL AS FOREIGNERS PURCHASED A LARGE AMOUNT OF SHORT-TERM GOVERNMENT SECURITIES. PUBLISHED OFFICIAL RESERVES INCREASED \$222 MIL FROM APRIL LEVEL TO \$14,557 MIL. GOLD AND FOREIGN EXCHANGE TOTALED \$13,196 MIL, GOLD TRANCHE \$811 MIL, AND SDR'S \$550 MIL.

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5. FOLLOWING ARE PRELIMINARY MOF DATA ON MAY BALANCE OF PAYMENTS IN MIL DOLLARS (IMF BASIS, NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED). AMOUNTS ARE PLUS (I.E. RECEIPTS) UNLESS SHOWN AS QTE MIN UNQTE.

MAY APRIL

PROVISIONAL REVISED CHANGE
(1) CURRENT BALANCE MIN 560 193 MIN 753

TRADE BALANCE 34 645 MIN 645 EXPORTS 4,310 4,739 MIN 429 IMPORTS MIN 4,310 MIN 4,094 MIN 216

SERVICES AND

TRANSFERS MIN 560 MIN 452 MIN 108

(2) LONG-TERM

CAPITAL 170 MIN 83 253

(3) BASIC BALANCE MIN 390 110 MIN 500

(4) NON-MONETARY SHORT-

TERM CAPITAL AND

ERRORS AND OMIS-

SIONS COMBINED 0 MIN 522 522

(5) OVERALL BALANCE MIN 390 MIN 412 22

(6) COMMERCIAL BANKS

SHORT-TERM NET

POSITION 110 539 MIN 429

(7) OFFICIAL SETTLE-

MENTS BALANCE MIN 280 127 MIN 407

6. SEASONALLY ADJUSTED TRADE DATA (IMF BASIS) AS FOLLOWS:

MAY APRIL

PROVISIONAL REVISED CHANGE

EXPORTS 4,422 4,786 MIN 364 IMPORTS MIN 3,917 MIN 3,965 48 BALANCE 505 821 MIN 316

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7. NOTE: RATES OF EXCHANGE USED BY MOF TO CONVERT TO DOLLAR BASIS WERE 291.57 YEN PER DOLLAR FOR MAY AND 292.14 YEN PER DOLLAR FOR APRIL 75. HODGSON

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To: STATE

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